

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transporting ~~a liquid product~~ an emulsion explosive down a vertical conduit having an inlet provided at the top of the conduit and an outlet provided at the bottom of the conduit, which method comprises feeding the emulsion explosive ~~liquid product~~ into the inlet of the conduit and contacting the emulsion explosive ~~liquid product~~ with means for dissipating potential energy released by the emulsion explosive ~~liquid product~~ as it is transported down the conduit so that turbulence in the emulsion explosive ~~liquid product~~ at the outlet of the conduit is reduced in order to reduce or avoid breakdown of the emulsion explosive and/or changes in viscosity and/or changes in droplet size of the emulsion explosive.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the conduit is a pipe.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the pipe is from 100 to 300 mm in diameter.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the pipe is from 100 to 600 m in length.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein no change in viscosity of the emulsion explosive is observed after transportation of the emulsion explosive down the conduit.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein the droplet size of the emulsion explosive is unaffected by transportation down the conduit.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein before being transported the emulsion explosive has a viscosity of from 2,000 to 200,000 cP at 25°C.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the means for dissipating potential energy is an energy dissipating device which prevents potential energy associated with the liquid product from being converted to kinetic energy within the liquid product.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the means for dissipating potential energy is a pump or turbine the mechanism of which is actuated by movement of the liquid product through the pump or turbine and/or by contact of the liquid product with components of the pump or turbine.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the potential energy released by the liquid product is converted to electrical, mechanical and/or hydraulic energy by the pump or turbine and dissipated in this form.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the means for dissipating potential energy is provided at the bottom of the conduit close to the outlet thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein the emulsion explosive is being transported from a surface storage facility to an underground storage facility.